

SEP 20 1974

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

1211 GENEVA 27 - SWITZERLAND
Télegr.: UNISANTE-Geneva

Tél. 34 60 61 Téléc. 27821

1211 GENÈVE 27 - SUISSE
Télégr.: UNISANTÉ-Genève

In reply please refer to:

17 September 1974

Prière de rappeler la référence:

Dear Josh,

This is on an entirely different matter than our tropical diseases meeting in October, about which Dr Goodman has been in touch with you subsequent to my cable.

I have just returned from the 24th Pugwash Conference in Baden, Austria. You will find enclosed two documents concerning the call for a moratorium for research in certain areas of molecular biology. I prepared a short note on this subject for discussion at the conference, and a meeting was held during one of the evenings to discuss the matter further. ~~Maaløe~~ and I led the discussion during that evening and as a result the enclosed communication was transmitted to the Pugwash Continuing Committee for action, which I understand they will take. Until they do, would you kindly keep this information on a restricted basis.

Would you be good enough to talk to Paul Berg about this matter from the standpoint of possible WHO involvement as the question very much concerns WHO's interests and responsibilities. I think we should be involved in some way in the meeting to take place early next year under NAS/NIH auspices, either as a participant, or even as a co-sponsor if it is considered that the latter would be useful.

I have tried to contact Niels Jerne, who is President of EMBO, as I understand that EMBO also plans to take up this question. Since ~~Maaløe~~ is very much engaged in EMBO activities I presume he will follow through with them. Dr George S. Hammond, Foreign Secretary of the NAS, also attended the Pugwash meeting. I suggested to V.A. Engelhardt of Moscow that Soviet molecular biologists should be involved, and Engelhardt gave Hammond three names of possible Soviet participants. Engelhardt participated in the Pugwash discussion and supported the recommendations in the enclosed account of the meeting.

Professor J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, CA 94305
United States of America

ENCLS: as mentioned

cc: Prof. O. ~~Maaløe~~, University Institute of Microbiology, Copenhagen.
Dr Niels K. Jerne, Basel Institute for Immunology, Basel.

If Berg and others welcome the idea of WHO involvement we could no doubt arrange for the costs of attendance of two or three individuals in the capacity of temporary advisers to WHO (e.g. yourself, Monod, Maaløe, and myself). If additional costs would be involved we would have to examine the matter further. Dr Robert S. Stone, Director of NIH, will be here for a meeting from 2 - 4 December, and I can discuss the matter with him at that time, unless it is considered that an earlier approach would be desirable. We should appreciate very much your help in this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Kaplan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

M. Kaplan
Director
Office of Science and Technology

P.S. Niels Jerne is away from Basel until the end of this month. I shall speak to him about this matter when he returns.